

## Hoagland, Staskiewicz square off at Strauss

By Gary Ogden Harper

Issues ranging from defense spending to abortion, as well as complaints from audience members who were unable to hear the speakers, highlighted Thursday's debate at UNO between U.S. 2nd District Congressman Peter Hoagland and challenger Ron Staskiewicz.

During the debate, a woman sitting in the sixth row in the Strauss Performing Arts Center Auditorium where the debate was held, stood up and shouted, "We can't hear you! Nobody can hear what you are saying."

Michael Nesley, secretary for the UNO Society of Professional Journalists, said he had difficulty hearing even though he was sitting in the fourth row.

"It was very difficult to hear what was being said. That made it very unfortunate for everyone who was here," Nesley said after the debate.

Gary Repair, executive producer of UNO television station KYNE which broadcast the debate, said, "The problems

with the house level in the auditorium were caused by trying to avoid feedback being picked up over the microphones. That has always been a problem in the Strauss Center."

Concerning issues in the debate, Hoagland mentioned his co-sponsorship of the Brady Bill which calls for a seven-day waiting period when purchasing firearms. Staskiewicz said he has proposed a compromise in developing a "quick check" at the point of transaction.

On health care, Staskiewicz said he favors reforms of medical malpractice laws and is concerned about the costs to small businesses from the recent passage of the Family Leave Bill.

Hoagland responded that his legislative efforts have included additional regulations aimed at forcing the insurance and health industries to control rising costs. He said he has repeatedly voiced concerns about the high costs of doctor office visits and its economic impact on working families.

See Debate, page 8.



—Ed Carlson

Ron Staskiewicz, left, and Peter Hoagland argue the issues at the Strauss Performing Arts Center Thursday.

Building is 'controversial,' Weber says

## Fine Arts Building officially opened

By Elizabeth Tape

The architecture of UNO's new Fine Arts Building is a controversial design that creates an opinion to those who see it.

That was one of UNO Chancellor Del Weber's remarks during grand opening ceremonies of the building Thursday.

"It is indeed a departure from what has been built on this campus previously," Weber said. "Like artists themselves, the building is controversial. It causes those who look at it to think and have an opinion."

Weber, Gov. Ben Nelson and other dignitaries attended the ceremony which was held in the Strauss Performing

Arts Center because of rainy weather. The ceremony had been scheduled to be outdoors.

Speaking before an estimated crowd of 120, Weber said the building represents the coming-together of many sections within the fine arts department.

"The arts have found a permanent home together with space for dramatic arts, the Writers' Workshop, the Nebraska Center for Book Arts, the Fine Arts Press, the art department and the university theater," he said.

Weber also noted it was on this exact date in 1908 that articles of incorporation were filed to form the University of Omaha.

"Our goal, then as now, was to create an environment in which students could learn, faculty could profess and the

community could share. It is to those same goals that we commit ourselves today," he said.

Nelson told the audience the new building, as well as the entire university, are great educational investments for the people of Nebraska.

"UNO is an institution that helps service the needs of all the state of Nebraska — a valuable asset — a great investment for all of the people of Nebraska. And, I think the investment has gone up significantly with the dedication of this Fine Arts Building," Nelson said.

David Shrader, UNO fine arts dean, told the audience, "My overriding thought is to thank the individuals who

See Fine Arts, page 2.

## McKenna concerned with Student Government

By Elizabeth Merrill

First in a three-part series on Student President/Regent candidates.

Mike McKenna made the headlines last year as Chief Justice of UNO's Student Court when the Court dismissed about \$4,000 in student parking tickets.

This year the Student President/Regent candidate has extended his concerns beyond parking.

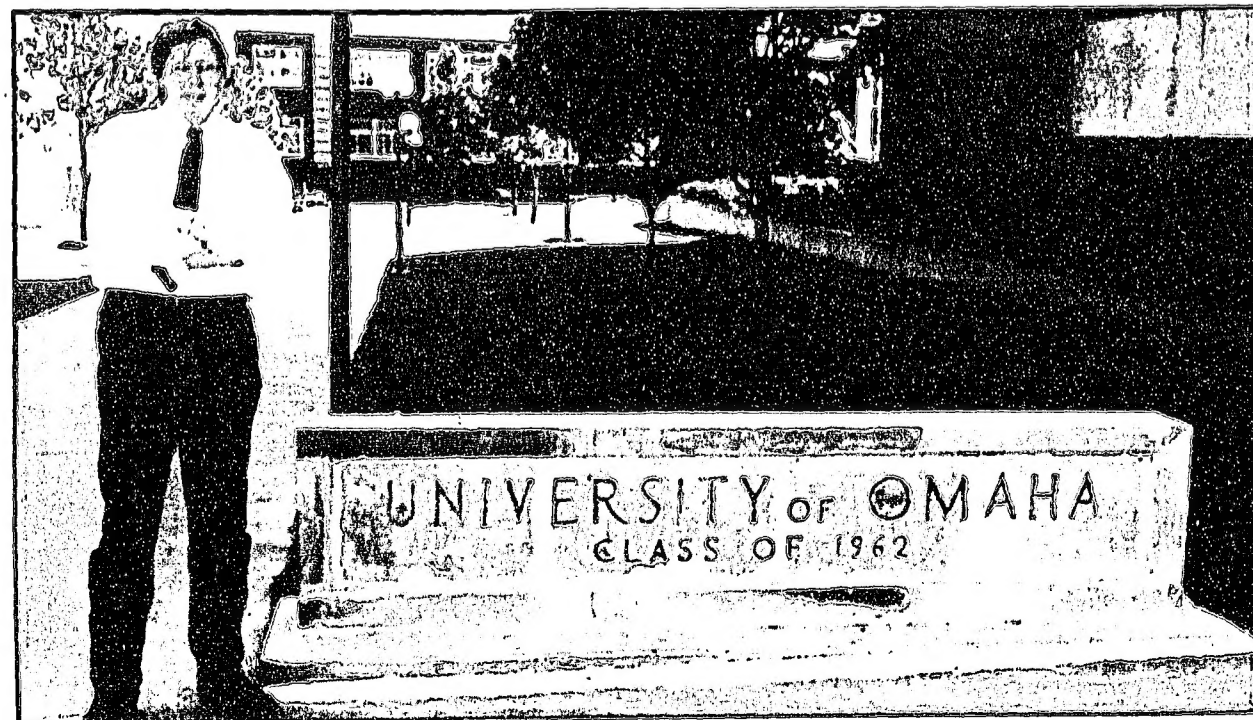
"My motto is: UNO — It's not just a parking issue anymore," McKenna said.

The senior history major, who served on the Election Commission last year and sat on the Student Senate in 1989, said he is concerned with the "ineffectiveness" of Student Government.

"Over the past few years I've seen what Student Government can do, and I've seen what it can't do," McKenna said. "I've seen so much in-fighting, mismanagement and ineffectiveness. I think under some good, effective leadership, we could turn it around and get a lot of things done."

McKenna said his top concern is the impending budget cuts the University of Nebraska system must trim \$560,000 from its budget for the remainder of this fiscal year and \$560,000 out of its base budget beginning in July 1993. Additional cuts are also expected when the Legislature convenes in January.

See McKenna, page 8.



Mike McKenna, former Chief Justice of the Student Court, wants to further his interest in Student Government by running for the office of Student President/Regent.



From Fine Arts, page 1

had involvement with the planning of the building; a building which I believe so accurately represents the spirit of my friends among the faculty, staff and student body of the College of Fine Arts. For that, I am deeply appreciative."

In concluding his remarks, Shrader said he was borrowing words by former University of Nebraska Board of Regents member Kermit Hansen when he spoke at the building's ground-breaking ceremony in 1990.

"May this building serve all who seek an outlet for their creative talents; for all who teach; for those who aid in the release and development of expressive talents; for those who study, the arts, drama painting, printing, dance, all forms of art; for those who perform on stage, on paper, on electronic beams; for those who attend or observe or, best of all, participate. Let this new building be a tool of great value, a stimulator, a center for the best in the human spirit."

To conclude the ceremonies, Weber read the inscription on the building's commemorative plaque: "In grateful appreciation to the citizens of the State of Nebraska whose continuing support of higher education is reflected in this structure. As their generosity endures, so too will the arts as an abiding symbol of humanity, dedicated this eighth day of October 1992."



Gov. Ben Nelson speaks at the dedication ceremony for the Fine Arts Building.

—Ed Carlson

## Aviation Institute dedicates new 'classroom'

By Tim Rohwer

Students in UNO's Aviation Institute have a new "classroom."

A \$1 million airplane hangar, dedicated last Tuesday on the east side of Omaha's Eppley Airfield, is now the exclusive facility for the institute's flight training program, according to Brent Bowen, the institute's director.

Since the institute was founded in 1990, Bowen said students had to share facilities with other aviation groups in a nearby hangar.

"Our facility is well-situated to the general aviation operations area at Eppley Airfield," he said. "I think it's going to provide a basis for UNO to leap right into the forefront of collegiate aviation education."

The facility, known as the Flight Operations

Center, was formerly the corporate hangar for U.S. West Communications, he said. The corporation donated the facility to the University of Nebraska Foundation last fall.

Bowen said the facility can accommodate 21 training aircraft, plus provide space for various classroom courses. About 427 students are enrolled in the institute this semester and of that amount, 120 students are taking flight training, he added.

The dedication ceremony followed a day-long conference in downtown Omaha where local and national aviation officials discussed various aviation issues. An estimated 100 people attended the ceremony.

At the dedication, Don Smith, executive director of the Omaha Airport Authority (OAA), told the audience, "Speaking on behalf of the

OAA, you are now a part of our family. This should be a great relationship, not just for students in Omaha, but for students around the Midwest."

John Farr, UNO vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, said, "This represents a milestone for the Aviation Institute. It's not just a magnificent facility; it's also a magnificent opportunity for students today and for years to come. It's full throttle ahead."

Attending the conference and the dedication ceremony was Captain Al Haynes, the pilot of the United Airlines plane that crashed in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1989. Haynes was credited for helping save 184 lives in the crash that killed 111 passengers.

Before the ceremony, Haynes told the Gateway that preparation by pilots, air controllers

and rescue personnel is the key element in preventing or minimizing any future disaster.

"You have to be prepared and plan for the worst," Haynes said. "About a year or two before the crash, the rescue personnel at Sioux City had a drill for just that sort of disaster. It improved their program, and they were very effective during the rescue."

Haynes said the air controllers and the passengers remained calm during the ordeal thereby minimizing the disaster.

"The air controllers were tremendous. They were very calm and didn't panic. They set the tone," he said.

"The passengers were calm, too. In fact, some passengers even gave the rescue people directions to where the seriously hurt passengers were. It takes teamwork," he said.

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## Racism is inherent in the system

If you are white or easily pass for a white European descendent, you are a racist. I have recently learned about my "white privilege" and my racist behavior from a class here at UNO, Institutionalized Racism and Sexism taught by Theresa Barron-McKeagney from the School of Social Work.

I may not wear sheets and burn crosses in the night as only a few white people do, but the rest of the whites are allowing a racist system to flourish. The perpetuation of this system is what makes me and the great majority of UNO students racists.

I knew I had an advantage over any minority in this country, but I never knew what to call it or what to do about it. I was another bleeding-heart liberal who felt guilty and angry, because I was white when Martin Luther King Day rolled around or on the day Rodney King's attackers were found not guilty.

Racism is any attitude, action or institutional structure which subordinates a person or group because of color. This is different from prejudice, hatred or discrimination because racism involves having the power to carry out discriminatory practices through the major institutions of our society: business, government, police force, education, etc.

Who has the power in this country? White people.

Racism in the United States means only whites can be racists. Forget reverse-racism, it doesn't exist. Reverse-discrimination might, but if we can't look at our society's problems on the macro level, then all we will do is point fingers and go in circles.

The continuous assault against Sen. Ernie Chambers in Omaha is racist behavior. He's constantly bashed in the *Omaha World Herald's* Public Pulse, and last year a columnist openly criticized every move Chambers made. He alone

represents all the minorities in the Nebraska Legislature.

Citizens of Omaha scream at him because he yells racism anytime something happens to a black person. Chambers isn't racist. It is an impossibility because he is a minority. He is trying to reach a level of equality in Omaha, a town where no one believes there is racism.

Why else would most Black Americans feel the need to stay in North Omaha or the Hispanics in South Omaha? West Omaha residents might think this is not a racist town, yet their communities continue to move further and further west, as a rich, cultural town grows in the east.

### TARA MUIR COLUMNIST

Only whites can be racist since whites dominate and control the institutions that create and enforce American cultural norms and values. People of color do not have access to the power to enforce any prejudices they may have so they can not, by definition, be racists.

A racist society is one in which white people are racists because they have opportunities and benefits that minorities will never have, through no fault of individual white people, but through the system, which is white.

Last spring, the television program "20/20," with Diane Sawyer, did an undercover report on a black man and a white man in St. Louis. The black man was ignored in shops, was given higher prices with higher down payment requirements

for a car, and was told apartments were rented when the white man had been in the same place moments before and was treated with open arms.

The white man was waited on almost immediately and with a smile in the shops, the same car was cheaper with a lower down payment, and he was literally given the keys to the same apartment and trusted to tour it on his own. This is blatant racism and "white privilege." It was recorded for our benefit by a hidden camera and microphone.

Diane Gillespie, associate professor in the Goodrich Program and a guest speaker in my class, said that every white person carries an invisible package of unearned assets "which you can count on cashing in every day, a weightless knapsack of special provisions." The example of this is the "20/20" report in St. Louis.

It wasn't the white man's fault that he was treated this way; he was unaware of his counterpart's treatment. However, he was carrying his knapsack to his benefit. Only when he compared his experience with a black man was he aware of his "white privilege."

Rodney King would be in prison for resisting arrest except someone caught the L.A. police beating him to a pulp and afterward, joking about it with racial slurs. Only because technology today is catching this blatant racism, we know how deep it runs when cameras are not around.

My point after all this complexity is this: It is not Chamber's job to end racism. It is my job and every other white person's job to end racism in our own lives. Racism will continue until you, as an individual, and your children, as you easily move into "power positions" and the "white system," take steps to learn to value rich cultural diversity in this city and this country.

## Dumbo, Elvis, or John Gotti's twin for president?

Hooligans, one and all, participated in Sunday evening's dog-and-pony show which revealed little more than inconsequential jabbering and squawking from the men who would be king.

Perot is a 4-foot tall, naive and power-driven control freak whose gotten way into George Orwell. Consequently, he is bent upon replacing "Seinfeld" with some kind of Twilight Zone meets Silicon Valley mandatory-education town meeting debacle, certain to result in risking the death penalty unless, flanked by large, greasy Copenhagen lovin' hicks named Cleus and Cooter, we bone up on Puerto Rico's gubernatorial race.

Clinton is a smooth-talking Elvis impersonator far too reminiscent of "Bucky," the local AAMCO car transmission guy determined to convince me the only way to go is to install a \$1,300 transmission in my \$200 beater, in addition to no doubt being on the make in at least four states for conspiring to sell back issues of "Hustler" to wide-eyed and giddy third graders.

Or, if neither of those illustrious characters seems underhanded enough, you're welcome to cast your vote for the current champ, the quintessential public speaker desperately in need of a public flogging who sports to his credit an impressive resumé consisting of a lengthy stint as top dog in the CIA.

The CIA where he, no doubt, underwrote many admirable and perfectly legal adventures.

All the these adventures, however, were merely preludes to a pole vault effort that most certainly shamed even Sergei Bubka as he miraculously soared above his Iran-Contra wrong doings, subsequently topped only by his masterful evasion of any accountability whatsoever for first arming Saddam Hussein, then killing thousands of foreign civilians under the guise of "removing him from power," and then failing to accomplish even that.

These proud accomplishments are obviously the source of his tremendous character, compassion and, lest we forget, family values.

So what's it gonna be, kids?

Dumbo, Elvis or John Gotti's long-lost twin?

My own personal sea of confusion only parted just last week, upon viewing Marky Mark, (grand Pooh Bah of "Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch"), political think-tank that he is, enunciate for a while like a drunken sot

with a lifelong lisp about the critical decision which waits in the wings.

"Well, uh, uh, ya' know, like jus' vote, man, cuz like, you need to man, ya know, and like it don't matter who it is that ya' vote for, ya' know, cuz well, there's some cool guys out there runnin' this year, and like we never vote, ya' know, people our own age and everything, so like this time we can change all that...change. Yea, we can change some stuff this year and everything, so like just vote, OK?"

That iced it for me. The cloudy candidential picture suddenly cleared, revealing through the last few shrouds of indecisive gloom a ray of presidential sunshine, and as I basked in its mind-clearing warmth, I knew precisely who my precious vote was going to, just as sure as I know when I'm suddenly and unexpectedly

dangerously too close to any 300-pound man named "Lester" with an insatiable penchant for sodomizing small animals and guys named Jeff.

It certainly couldn't be Dumbo the parrot, as even the slightest whiff of Copenhagen sends my sensitive olfactory glands into a bizarre

series of contortions, ultimately and inevitably resulting in an untimely and wretched display of my gastric processes in action.

I had to rule Elvis out as well, for fear of, upon voting for him, my allergic reaction to AAMCO suddenly leaving remission and sending me reeling into another nightmarish episode of frenzied psychosis, interrupted sporadically only long enough to scream at the top of my lungs "Double A...HONK HONK...M-C-O," an atrocious low light of my checkered past I would just as soon prefer to keep there.

John Gotti's long-lost brother, alas, also just wouldn't suffice, as I am aware on some primordial level that lying, crooked, scumbags who kill people just don't make good presidents, in addition to being rather dangerous poker buddies. Filth of his nature has no business attempting anything more complicated than a trip through downtown in search of all the vermin who owe their bookies large sums of money.

I clearly have no other option, save for the man who is destined to lead us all into the promised land. I encourage you to follow my lead, as together, we can rewrite history and restore our flagging nation to the lustrous beacon of hope our forefathers once envisioned.

Vote Marky Mark for president.

### JEFF HULTS COLUMNIST

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# NEWS CLIPS

## Homecoming king, queen crowned

Wade Lewis and Melissa Schestedt were crowned king and queen at UNO's Homecoming ceremony at Al Caniglia Field Saturday night.

Lewis was sponsored by Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Schestedt was sponsored by Chi Omega sorority.

Weekend Homecoming events began with a pep rally and hayrack ride Friday and concluded Sunday with a concert by the Minneapolis Gospel Sound.

## Forensics team fifth at Creighton tournament

UNO's forensics team finished fifth out of 15 colleges and universities who competed at a Creighton University tournament. The tournament was part of a weekend event hosted by Creighton and UNO.

Julie McKnight placed second in After Dinner Speaking, third in Informative Speaking and fourth in Communication Analysis. Rose Fuccio placed fourth in Persuasive Speaking, and Rich Jones placed sixth in Prose Interpretation.

Bradley University of Illinois was the overall team winner.

## Kansas professor to speak about UFOs

Fowler Jones, a University of Kansas (KU) professor, will speak on his research and experience with people claiming to have had contacts with UFOs Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the New Tower Inn, 78th and Dodge streets.

Jones, a licensed psychologist and associate professor in the department of psychia-

try at the KU medical school, said in a press release, "There are some pieces of reasonably good evidence that suggest something most unusual is and has been occurring for a number of years."

His speech is open to the public.

Jones will also speak at a luncheon at the Oakcrest Institute Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The luncheon is open only for people who have had personal UFO experience.

## Lecture to look at ads, women and alcohol

Jean Kilbourne will give a lecture titled "Calling the Shots" Oct. 29 in the Nebraska Room of the Student Center.

The focus of the 7:30 p.m. lecture will be how advertising and alcohol affect women.

The presentation is co-sponsored by UNO's Women's Resource Center, Student Programming Organization and Health Services.

## Debate for President/Regent candidates

Student Programming Organization is sponsoring a debate for the Student President/Regent candidates on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

Current President/Regent Mike Farquhar will act as moderator, and the debate will be followed by a question and answer period.

## Camp Fire meeting Friday and Saturday

The River Cities Council of Camp Fire Boys and Girls will host the Camp Fire's 1992 Mid-America Regional Meeting Friday and Saturday.

The theme for the conference is "Champions for Children, Building the Partnership."

Volunteers and Camp Fire staff from a seven-state region will meet at the Best Western Regency West Hotel.

Tom Steverin of Management Resources of America will conduct a partnership-building workshop.

For more information, call 397-5809.

## Hayes to address marketing association

Mike Hayes will address the Greater Omaha Chapter of the American Marketing Association at its monthly meeting Thursday.

Hayes, founder and president of the National Research Corporation, will discuss "Relationship (Database) Marketing — Will It Work in Healthcare?"

The meeting will be at The Garden Cafe's Meeting Room at Rockbrook Village from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. The cost of the lunch is \$12 for members and \$15 for guests.

For reservations, call 392-2243.

## Mental disability seminar in Lincoln

Nebraska Continuing Legal Education Inc. is sponsoring a seminar on "Mental Disability Law in Nebraska" Friday.

The course focuses on the 1991 handbook, "Mental Disability Law in Nebraska." The handbook is designed for attorneys and professionals dealing with the mental health issues.

Course topics include criminal commitment, civil commitment and guardianship/conservatorship for incapacitated persons. Discussions will also be held on issues of

personal rights and ethics, special education and the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. at the Roman L. Hruska Law Center in Lincoln with presentations beginning at 9 a.m.

A registration fee is charged. For more information or to register, call 475-7091 or 1-800-927-0117. The handbook may also be purchased by calling these numbers.

## Support for sexual harassment victims

The Omaha YWCA is starting a support group in October for victims of sexual harassment.

The group's purpose is to provide emotional support and practical problem-solving skills, along with information on where current victims can turn for help to end harassment. The group is open to both current and past victims of sexual harassment.

The group will meet Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The first meeting is free and after that a donation of \$2 per meeting is requested.

For location and more information, contact Donalee Rogier at 345-6555.

Two personal safety classes will also start in October.

Assault Prevention for Women will meet Fridays Oct. 16 through Nov. 6 from 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. at the Park Avenue Health Club. The class will teach simple escape and defense techniques a woman can use, as well as basics of what to do and not to do in a dangerous situation.

Personal Safety for Children 5-13 will meet Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Rockbrook United Methodist Church. The children will be taught various escape and self-defense techniques.

For more information and registration materials, call the YWCA at 345-6555.

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# FROM THE WIRE

Marijuana Week celebrated in Florida, Wisconsin

## Students up in smoke over marijuana laws

(CPS) — In an age of "Just Say No," some college students want to "Just Say Yes" to loosening up laws against marijuana and its possession.

Evidence of supporters' enthusiasm was present as thousands of students attended Marijuana Week rallies Sept. 21-26 at or near colleges such as Penn State, the University of Florida, University of Wisconsin and Iowa State University.

According to the *Independent Florida Alligator*, the third annual Gainesville Harvest Festival nearly dissolved in chaos when someone tossed more than 100 marijuana cigarettes into a crowd, sending hundreds of people scrambling for them on their hands and knees.

A group of police officers stood by and watched, fearing that a riot might break out if they interfered. About 3,000 attended the rally sponsored by Cannabis Action Network as part of a national movement to educate and motivate voters to legalize marijuana.

Meanwhile, the Penn State University student government officially threw its support to Marijuana Week. Right in the middle of the week, President Bush made a campaign visit to University Park, Pa., looking for votes.

Penn State's Marijuana Week is a first-ever event, said Robert Kampia, the president of Penn State's Undergraduate Student Government.

It was co-sponsored by the Penn State chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) and student 1st Step, a campus organization involved in voter registration.

A spokeswoman for the university said the administration would not interfere with the programs.

Kampia said he wants Penn State policy liberalized for students caught with marijuana. "The government shouldn't have that much control over our minds and bodies," he said. "Right now, you can't buy marijuana at your local grocery store. People need it for glaucoma, AIDS and cancer, and they can't buy it."

He wants the school's policy on marijuana to be consistent with its alcohol policy. Currently, minors caught drinking on campus face a maximum one-semester probation, while students violating marijuana policy get a minimum one-semester probation.

A "referendum" was held in 1991, and undergraduate students voted in support of making the policies equal in punitive actions.

"Marijuana is treated more harshly at Penn State, and alcohol is not treated as seriously," said Doug McVay, a volunteer with the student government.

Meanwhile, hundreds of miles to the west, a time-honored tradition was held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: the Midwest Harvest Fest, a 21-year-old event that began to educate people about marijuana and laws that prohibit marijuana.

Vendors sell legal products made out of hemp such as cloth.

Wisconsin's Midwest Harvest Fest has been held off and on since 1971, depending on the mood of the university administration, said Bob Kundert, who has worked with the university's student association on planning the event.

Kundert, who is 69 years old and calls himself "rather unique in the freedom movement," said about 12,000 attended the harvest festival.

The festival was held in an area near the University of Wisconsin library. Afterward, participants marched to the state capitol.

"Madison is great right now. Sometimes it wasn't great. It depends on the mood," Kundert said.

Although no one is supposed to smoke pot at the festival, 10 people were arrested for doing so last year.

An information booth was set up on Iowa State University's campus to give students more information about the benefits of legalized hemp.

Jack Herer, California author of "The Emperor Wears No Clothes," wore a pair of pants made out of hemp to demonstrate the practical uses of marijuana, the *Iowa State Daily* reported.

Hemp is four times stronger, more absorbent and 26 times more durable than cotton, he said. It can also be used to produce fuel, ship sails, canvas, paints, medicine, food and building materials.

Disputing the opinions of many health experts, Herer said that marijuana is good for people if they use it moderately and avoid harmful drugs like alcohol and nicotine.

"The only thing that you get from it, and I know, is the munchies," Herer said.

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# UNO Cadets

**They went to Camp Ashland. They marched. They captured each other. They cleaned rifles. They wore combat boots. They are the Army ROTC, just trying to be all they can be.**

**Y**ou're behind enemy lines. Two miles separate you from friendly territory. You're bordered by a river on one side and a heavily patrolled road on the other. Even though it's dark out and you are camouflaged from head to toe, you are cautious because the enemy, armed with night-vision goggles, is patrolling the woods in front of you.

Suddenly, a flare fills the sky in front of you with a brilliant white light. You become temporarily disoriented, and run away from the light, knowing the enemy is close. . .

No, this is not a section out of a Tom Clancy novel, this is part of the Army ROTC's (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Field Training Exercise — also known as FTX.

The FTX is part of the training for cadets of UNO's Army ROTC detachment, which has combined with Creighton University's ROTC program to form a single unit.

According to Lt. Col. Charles Hacker, commander of the joint program, UNO has conducted field training exercises since 1954 and Creighton since 1920. But because of recent military cutbacks, the two schools were forced to consolidate their programs to best utilize their resources.

Hacker feels the consolidation may have actually been beneficial for the program.

"What we get from UNO are cadets that have experience, drive and knowledge. What we get from Creighton are cadets mostly right out of high school. You get a good mix of experience and youthful exuberance. It's a dynamite combination," he said.

Hacker said the FTX is an important part of the leadership development aspect of ROTC.

"What we are doing out here is challenging the cadets both physically and mentally. The time spent out in the field is invaluable. We get to see how the cadets react when they're cold, tired and miserable, and how it affects their reactions to situations," he said.

The cadets from UNO's detachment agree that the FTX is important.

"As a learning experience, we learn more out here in the field in one weekend than in two or three weeks in the classroom," said Cadet Michael Lawson.

Cadet Ernest Reinhart agreed with Lawson.

"In the classroom, you really can't teach how people are going to react to certain situations; how they'll handle hot weather, cold weather, long road marches and so on. With the FTX, we're put into those situations. It doesn't make a difference if you can run a few miles in a gymnasium when you're doing a six-mile road march with a 40-pound ruck sack on your back," he said.

**R**od Nuzum is a graduate student at UNO and a first-year ROTC cadet. Nuzum, a native of Hooper, Neb., graduated from Wayne State College last December with bachelor's degrees in political science and criminal justice. When he couldn't find a job that suited him, he chose UNO and the ROTC program.

"I figured my best course of action then would be to go to graduate school and join ROTC to get the practical experience and training I'd need later in the criminal justice field," Nuzum said.

Nuzum, a FTX rookie, shared his experiences and explained the details of what exactly happens in the FTX.

The first thing the unit did when they arrived at Camp Ashland Friday was to set up a bivouac site.

"Basically, it's setting up a secured site and doing what the Army calls 'bivouacking' — what most people would call 'camping.' We set up Army tents, and we're taught how to have everything properly aligned according to specifications. It was actually very stressful because it's almost impossible to get everything lined up exactly. When a tent wasn't done right, it was torn down and done again," he said.

Morning came early for the cadets. The unit rose at 5:30 a.m. Saturday to break down their bivouac. An hour later, it was time to march to the Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM) site. The group received instruction

on correct holding positions of weapons and proper shooting techniques before being sent to a live-firing range. At the range, the cadets were evaluated on their proficiency with the standard weapon in the Army's arsenal, the M-16 assault rifle.

An average score on the exercise is roughly 25 to 32 targets hit out of a possible 40. Nuzum hit 38 out of 40.

"I don't think much of anything when I'm shooting. I just try to concentrate on proper form and breathing techniques. I've been handling weapons most of my life, and I'm pretty comfortable with them. I think that helps. I was really surprised that I hit 38 out of 40. I've done that before, but I didn't think I was doing that good until I finished," he said.

Next for the group came the Land Navigation Training, simply known as "Land-Nav." The cadets were set in a large, open area and given a scaled map to plot coordinate points on. The cadets, who worked in groups, then went into the area and were given a limited amount of time to find all of the points on the map, using trained analysis and other navigation techniques.

"I thought it was very hard. I guess I just wasn't experienced enough in land navigation to do that well. It is definitely something that we all need more work on," Nuzum said.



After the Land-Nav exercise, the cadets completed a six-and-a-half-mile road march back to Camp Ashland, each carrying a 40-pound ruck sack on their back, which contained everything the cadets brought with them.

When the sun went down Saturday, the excitement level went up.

The cadets participated in SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) training that night.

"This was probably the best time of the entire three days," Nuzum said.

The group was divided up into pairs, and their objective was to make it to "friendly lines" two miles away. The course was bordered by a road on one side, and the

Platte River on the other, and the teams were not allowed to cross either boundary. Upper-class cadets using night-vision goggles tried to capture the cadets and take them to a "prisoner-of-war camp" located in the center of the course. To make matters worse, flares and artillery noise simulators were going off around the cadets.

"No one made it without getting captured. It was fun, but not completely realistic. Anyone trying to survive and evade probably wouldn't go through a tree line where that many of the enemy are. Personally, I would have floated down the river; none of that hero stuff," said Nuzum.

The FTX ended Sunday with a Leadership Reaction Course, where cadets were put into difficult situations requiring leadership, teamwork and imagination to overcome an obstacle, such as how to cross a 20-yard strip of land in a set amount of time without actually touching the ground, using five people and only two wooden planks.

"I thought everything went well," Nuzum said. "There was still a lot of things that we needed to work out, but that's what the purpose of this is. It will help make us better. Like they always say, 'Be all that you can be'."

**Story by  
Lance Braun**

**Photos by  
Cdt. Cpt. Brenda  
Maloney & Ed Carlson**





Page six: UNO Cadet Michael Lawson takes aim during Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Training.

A Creighton ROTC cadet, top photo, takes advantage of a break in the action.

A group of cadets have a handle on the situation, middle photo, at the Leadership Reaction Course.

Two UNO cadets, bottom, clean their rifles before final inspection.





## From McKenna page 1

McKenna said the budget cuts have caused him to change his stance on the dormitory issue.

"I don't see the Board of Regents giving us that money (for dormitories) before the year 2000," McKenna said. "We have to work with what we have now. Student housing is great, but student housing in 1993 is unrealistic."

"Which would you rather have now? The promise of dorms in maybe four or five years or more open classes so you're out of here before they even go up?"

McKenna also said parking is still an issue, but that realistic alternatives must be utilized.

"Last year, the Student Senate gave us \$4,000 for bus benches to wait for the shuttle," McKenna said. "I say we take that \$60,000 that they're sitting on (in reserve funds) and give us more buses so we don't have to wait."

McKenna said he would also like Student Government officers to be more accessible to students. He said interaction with the UNO community outside the Student Government Office is necessary.

"If you can't bring the message in, take the message out."

## From Debate page 1

"Too often, a parent will have to choose between going to work or caring for a sick child," Hoagland said.

The candidates said they see different results for Nebraskans in free trade agreements with Mexico.

"I am alarmed by the possibility of losing more companies and high-paying jobs, which we should be preparing for with re-training programs and new educational goals," Hoagland told the audience.

Staskiewicz said better jobs will actually come into the United States through fair trade agreements.

The candidates also discussed the recent military cutbacks at the former Strategic Air Command. Hoagland said he has confidence in Nebraska's diversity of industry. Nebraska is one of the few states which hasn't over-relied on federal monies to stimulate the economy or gain jobs, he said.

Staskiewicz said he is alarmed that redistributing defense revenues could leave America vulnerable to international threats.

On education, Staskiewicz said he is convinced competition will improve education, basing his experience as a

parochial student. Hoagland said he had focused his efforts on early childhood development, safer high schools and more loans for colleges.

Abortion was another issue that was discussed by the candidates with Hoagland telling the audience of his opponent's "rigid stance against abortion despite over 800 cases of rape reported during his (Staskiewicz) tenure in the district attorney's office."

Staskiewicz said he is solidly behind the pro-life movement.

In closing comments, Staskiewicz invoked memories of his late mother and the fact she once worked as a maid for the Hoagland family. He also mentioned his family's long established roots in the south Omaha area and their involvement in small businesses.

Hoagland concluded by saying the past four years of representing the 2nd District "have been the greatest honor of my life." He also said the seniority which Nebraska is beginning to build through its congressmen and senators will benefit the pursuit of many long-sought goals and legislation.

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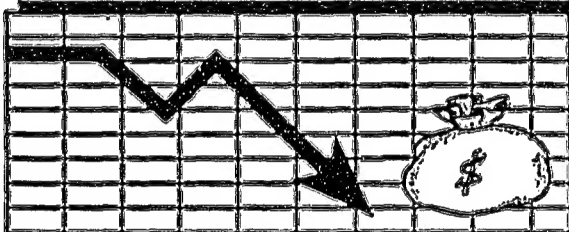
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## Nebraska organization buckles up

By Michael O'Connor

With a back seat full of groceries, Julie Renner and her 4-year-old daughter Shannon headed home on Interstate 80 after shopping Oct. 2. They ended up taking an unexpected detour to the University of Nebraska Medical Center emergency room after being sideswiped and almost crushed by a westbound semi-trailer truck attempting to change lanes.

"The truck hit us, then jack-knifed and dragged us from one side of the street to the other," Renner said. "It crunched us into the right railing. When I felt the impact of the railing, I thought his trailer was going to roll over and crush us."

Renner's car, a four-door Oldsmobile Omega, was totaled in the accident.

"The driver's side door was crunched; all the windows were broken and there is no back end left. Luckily, there was only groceries in the back seat. If someone would have been back there, they would have been killed."

Renner, who is five-months pregnant, and Shannon walked away from the accident with only minor cuts and bruises. Remarkably, no pregnancy complications occurred from the accident.

"The doctor told me that everything was OK. I really am very lucky," she said.

Renner saved herself, her daughter and her unborn child with the use of a safety belt and a child-restraint seat.

"If we hadn't been strapped in, I don't know what would have happened. I know Shannon would not have made it. She would have been thrown out the window," Renner said.

Stories such as this are the inspiration behind Nebraskans Saved By the Belt, an educational organization honoring people who wear their safety belts.

According to coordinator Katherine Farrell, the organization was started in January 1992 and already has nearly 200 members.

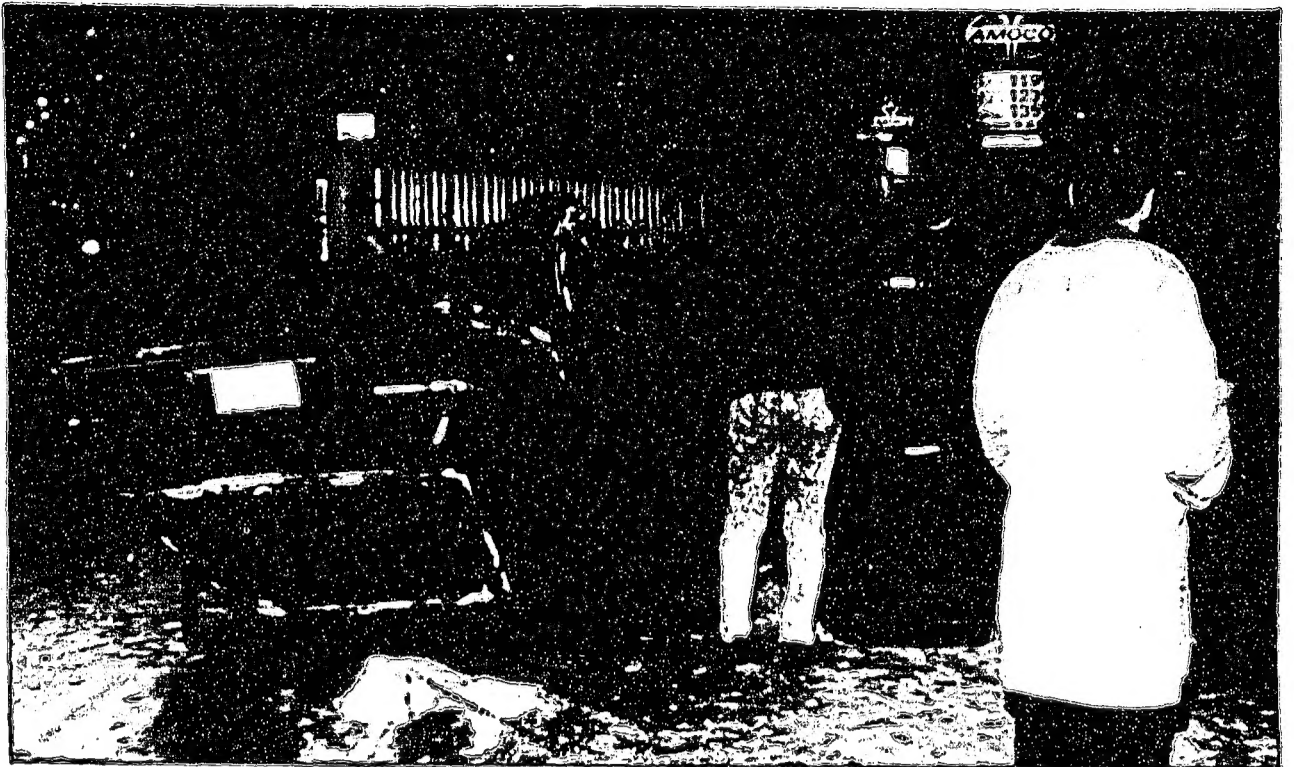
"Even when Nebraska's new law takes effect Jan. 1, people will still need to be encouraged to buckle up," Farrell said.

Nebraskans Saved By the Belt, located in Lincoln, uses several different methods to get its message across. Members are encouraged to tell their stories in a number of different forums.

"We put them in touch with the media, send some people to schools, and encourage them to tell their stories whenever possible," Farrell said.

The organization believes that lives can be saved through education.

"If you hear what someone down the block has gone through, it can be much more educational because it is told on a personal level. One person telling another can make a



—file photo

Late last fall, a UNO student hit a snowbank at 80th and Dodge and overturned the vehicle. Both occupants in the car were uninjured and wearing seatbelts.

big difference," she said.

The organization also focuses much of its attention on getting young people to start buckling up.

"We believe in modeling. If young people see other young people using a seat belt, then hopefully they will start using it," Farrell said. "Parents need to be especially firm with regard to saying 'If you're going to drive, you're going to buckle up.'"

The Nebraska Office of Highway Safety 1991 figures showed that only 9.8 percent of high school seniors reported wearing their safety belts all of the time, and 59.5 percent are part-time users. About 30 percent of high school seniors report they never use their safety belts.

"The classic accident victim we treat is a young male with some amount of alcohol in their system," said Dr. Robert Allen, an emergency room physician at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. "I'm not sure there is a way to get people to start buckling up. Public education is the best form of getting the message across."

In October 1976, "way before seat belts were in vogue," Barbara Sellman, a member of Nebraskans Saved by the Belt, was taking her daughter Shani to the babysitter when a woman failed to stop at an intersection and

slammed into the passenger side of her Volkswagen Bug. The impact totaled her car, but Sellman and her daughter sustained only minor injuries.

"The policeman at the accident scene said it was a miracle that we lived. It was the seat belts that saved us," Sellman said.

In August 1992, Sellman received her master's degree in guidance counseling from the UNO, and Shani is now a sophomore at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.

Veronica Wiley, also a member of the organization, hit an icy patch of the road in the winter of 1973. Her car was thrown into a spin and wrapped around a tree.

"I would have been thrown from the car if I hadn't been wearing my seat belt."

Wiley was involved in another accident Wednesday.

"A truck smashed into me, but I wasn't really injured. Once again, I was saved by my safety belt."

Both members, Sellman and Wiley of Omaha, are doing their part in helping to educate the public. By telling their stories, they hope that they can encourage others to use their safety belts.

For information on Nebraskans Saved By the Belt, please contact Katherine Farrell at 1-800-669-6274.

### Clinic once again offers services

## Med Center holds open house at SONA building

By Michael O'Connor

The University of Nebraska Medical Center held an open house at its south Omaha medical clinic Oct. 3. Community leaders and residents toured the facility and received free blood pres-

sure and vision screenings. Free hot dogs, popcorn and soft drinks were served, and dancing contests and games were held for children.

The clinic, located in the South Community Service Center, at 5211 S. 31 St., also known as the SONA building, is one of five Med Center

satellite clinics. It reopened its family practice last February after leaving the neighborhood for an interim period.

"The open house was a way to let people know we're back," said Dr. Michael Sitorius, chairman of Family Practice at the Med Center. "Overall, I think the open house went real well. Local residents seemed very supportive and enthusiastic over what we are doing."

The medical clinic occupies 4,911 square feet and houses six exam rooms for medical supply needs, health referrals and examination scheduling. Two Medical Center departments, family practice and obstetrics/gynecology, presently provide health care services at the clinic.

More than 30 physicians from family practice, family planning and maternal/infant care staff the clinic on a rotating basis. Family practice offers pregnancy tests and counseling service, female annual exams and contraception prescriptions. Male and female patients also may receive testing and counseling for sexually transmitted diseases.

The maternal/infant care program provides prenatal and postpartum care services, including general physical assessment, lab tests, medication and childbirth prep classes. Other services include nutrition education and social

work.

According to Sitorius, the clinic offers comprehensive care to the south Omaha community.

"We provide local residents access to primary health care in a community that has previously been underserved," he said. "The convenience and accessibility provides care to many residents who might not otherwise receive it."

Dr. Jeffrey Susman, associate professor of the department of family practice at the Med Center, agrees that the clinic is a "full-service" family health center.

According to Susman, the clinic accepts all Medicaid and a range of Health Maintenance Organization payment plans.

"No one is turned away," Susman said. "We are dedicated to providing health care for everyone, regardless of ability to pay."

The clinic is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Each division also holds respective examination hours — family practice, Wednesdays from noon to 3 p.m.; family planning, Mondays and Thursdays from noon to 3 p.m., and maternal/infant care, Tuesdays and Fridays from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



—Mary Zgoda

Margarette Durant, along with her son Antonio and granddaughter Cambria, enjoy the open house festivities while Dr. Daniel Halm serves drinks.



## Lady Mavs bring victories home

By Lance Braun

There's no place like home. That was the feeling of the UNO volleyball team as the Lady Mavs played at home for the first time in more than a month this past weekend.

UNO made the most of its home stand by sweeping South Dakota Friday night and beating Morningside in four sets Saturday night.

"It's very nice to be home and winning on our home court," said Mav Coach Rose Shires.

"We felt it was important for us in the conference race to sweep this weekend's games. We were excited to be playing at home again in front of big home crowds and playing on TV," she said.

University of Nebraska TV station KYNE Channel 26 broadcast Friday night's game, and the Lady Mavs took advantage of the spotlight by ripping South Dakota 15-2 in the first set.

Junior Laura Monahan accounted for seven kills in the first set alone. She finished the match with 19, four more than South Dakota's entire team total.

In the second set, UNO fell behind 2-1, but reeled off 10 consecutive points on its way to a 15-5 decision.

The Lady Mavs completed their sweep by winning the third set 15-0.

"There are five teams in this conference ranked in the Top 25, so that should say how tough this conference is. To beat any team in this conference in three sets is very good," Shires said.

Junior Shannon Hop paced the Lady Mavs with 41 set assists and three service aces. Junior Laura Kelly contributed a strong all-around performance with 17 digs, eight kills, five set assists and two aces. In addition to her 19 kills, Monahan added 10 digs and two aces.

"We took care of business, plain and simple," Monahan said. "We were playing a weaker team and wanted to beat



Laura Kelly, #5, and Michele Highland, #6, go up for a block. UNO maintained its top 20 ranking by defeating South Dakota and Morningside over the weekend.

them decisively. Obviously, we did that."

Shires said the South Dakota game was good experience for some of the younger players.

"Our younger players have had to play in some stressful situations. It was good to get some of them in with the game in a more relaxed situation with the game not quite on the line," she said.

Saturday's match against Morningside was more stressful, but its outcome was the same.

UNO took the first set 15-11, then came from behind to win the second set 15-9.

Morningside captured the third set 15-9, but the Lady Mavs rebounded to win the fourth set and the match 15-6.

Sophomore Kevin Campbell led the Lady Mavs with 27

digs, the best individual performance in the North Central Conference (NCC) this season. She also added 10 kills and two aces. Kelly had 14 kills, 23 digs, two solo blocks and two aces. Monahan added 14 kills and 17 digs. Hop tallied 42 set assists and 12 digs. Sophomore Michele Highland had 11 kills, eight digs and two solo blocks, and junior Dawn Hottovy contributed 20 digs.

With the sweep, the No. 19 Lady Mavs improved their record to 14-6 overall and 3-2 in the NCC.

UNO will travel to Fargo, N.D., to take on North Dakota State Friday night and to Grand Forks, N.D., to play North Dakota Saturday night.

Game time for Friday's contest is 7 p.m., and Saturday's match will start at 5:30 p.m.



—Ed Carlson

UNO quarterback Rodney Brown, #2, is tackled during the Maverick Homecoming loss to Mankato State.

## Mankato's Mavericks spoil UNO Homecoming

By Lance Braun and Daren Schrat

For 32 minutes, the UNO football team played fired-up football against Mankato State, but it took only two plays for the Maverick upset bid to go up in smoke.

The Mankato State University (MSU) Mavericks broke a 14-7 third-quarter deadlock with two touchdowns in 21 seconds en route to a 37-7 victory over UNO Saturday on Homecoming Night at Al Caniglia Field.

The loss, UNO's fourth straight, dropped the Mavericks to 2-4 overall and 0-4 in the North Central Conference (NCC). Mankato State, ranked No. 11 in Division II, raised its record to 5-1 overall and 3-1 in league play.

"I thought for almost three quarters, we played well," said Mav Head Coach Tom Mueller. "But in 20 seconds, we took ourselves right out of the ballgame. You can't do that, especially against a really good team like Mankato State."

The game marked the debut of Rodney Brown at quarterback for UNO. Brown, who played running back before converting to quarterback this week, led a rejuvenated Mav rushing attack with 79 yards on 17 carries, but completed only four out of 12 passes for 36 yards and threw five interceptions.

UNO, plagued by slow starts all year, appeared to be heading in the right direction as the Mavs' Anthony Colere recovered a fumble on Mankato State's second play and returned it to the MSU 39-yard line. UNO managed to drive 20 yards in seven plays, but a 36-yard field goal attempt by Kevin McMIndes went

wide right.

Mankato State took advantage of the miscue and drove 80 yards in 10 plays to score its first touchdown of the game.

MSU running back Lance Dunn carried the ball seven times for 52 yards in the drive. Dunn, who finished with 178 yards on 18 carries, scored the first of his three touchdowns on a 28-yard sprint on a fourth-and-1 play.

Early in the second quarter, Mankato State's Ben Price intercepted a Rodney Brown pass and returned it to the UNO 34. MSU scored in 10 plays as Dunn capped the drive by going over from one yard out. Navitsky converted, and Mankato lead 14-0.

UNO answered with a nine-play, 68-yard scoring drive that closed the gap to seven points. Shane McClanahan scored on a 34-yard touchdown sprint, and Kevin McMIndes drilled the extra-point to make the halftime score 14-7.

"At halftime, we felt good about how we were playing," said Mav linebacker Steve Kurtz. "(Defensive Coordinator Scott) Grogan made some good adjustments at halftime, and we were sure they wouldn't be able to drive on us in the second half," he said.

After shutting down MSU on its opening drive of the third quarter, UNO drove from its own 13 to the Mankato 28-yard line, but Kevin McMIndes 44-yard field

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# Baseball: A sport for all seasons

By Daren Schrat

It was a windy 44 degrees, and everyone in the press box didn't have a warm enough jacket. It was the start of the UNO baseball season.

UNO Sports Information Director Gary Anderson and his folks braved the elements as the Mavs finally opened their season against Nebraska-Westleyan. The first four games were rained or snowed out. After all, it was March 15.

The Mavs erased some of the dismal memories of 1991's dismal 7-29 season with a two-game sweep, one was a shutout, over Nebraska-Westleyan.

In the press box, there were three Mav pitchers taking notes for Manager Bob Gates, alias "Gator." There was talk about Cincinnati, the Mets and Royals, and there were even impersonations of the Minnesota Twins' home announcer.

The Mavs went on to finish 23-25 with a team consisting mostly of freshmen and sophomores. Gator, you did alright.

It is time for post-season hindsight now that the major league season is narrowed down to four teams fighting to appear in the World Series.

In the big leagues, the big news was the Kansas City Royals trading Bret Saberhagen to the New York Mets for Gregg Jefferies, Kevin McReynolds and Keith Miller. Royals fans were livid, to say the least, but maybe they

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shouldn't be.

It's no secret the Mets were the biggest bust this year. Bobby Bonilla got \$5.9 million to hit .249, 19 home runs and 70 runs batted in (RBI). What a bargain, but wait, that's not all. For \$7.5 million, paid in three easy yearly installments, the Mets got first baseman Eddie Murray and his .261 average, 16 homers and 93 RBIs. Murray was a better deal than Bonilla, but he was still way too expensive.

We can't forget the Mets' Mr. Personality,

Vince Coleman.

When he wasn't

quarrelling with

Mets' skipper

Jeff Torborg, he

actually made

229 plate appearances to hit .275 with an earth-

shattering two homers and 21 RBIs.

A 72-90 record isn't done without pathetic pitching and that is where the Mets were really dim. Saberhagen got injured, stayed that way, and went 3-5 with a 3.50 earned run average (ERA). Doc Gooden is thinking about quitting after going 10-13 with a 3.67 ERA. But the Mets' really dumb move was trading their ace, David Cone, to Toronto for minor-league caliber players.

No wonder the Mets ran a full-page ad in the *New York Times* apologizing to fans for having a sorry year. "Sorry" is an accurate analysis of

the Mets.

The Royals' record was the same as the highly touted Mets. But somehow the Royals got a better deal with Jefferies hitting .285, and Miller batted .284 after missing a month of the season. We'll have to wait until next year to see if McReynolds, .247 with 13 homers, has anything left after his injury-plagued season.

The difference between the Royals' 90 losses and the Mets was the Royals compete in the toughest division in baseball, the American League West. Not even the biggest optimists predicted the Royals to

contend in their division. This year was a rebuilding year for "Kaycee."

The Mets were supposed to run away with the National League East and play in this year's fall classic.

The highlight for the Royals was George Brett reaching the 3,000-hit plateau. He will be remembered as one of the best hitters of all time. Brett's former teammate Frank White made a good point when he said Brett would've had 4,000 hits had he stayed healthy throughout the prime of his career.

The Royals started out 1-16 and never did see fourth place. By the All-Star break, Royals

fans were already saying, "Wait until next year." At least the Royals got rid of Mark Davis.

This season, team owners continued the senseless spending in the free agent market. Cal Ripken never came close to a .300 batting average and still was awarded \$30.5 million over five years.

Cecil Fielder did his job by leading the majors in RBIs for the third straight year. Now he wants the Detroit Tigers to pay him enough money to buy General Motors. The free agent market will be flooded this winter, and many players will probably sport new uniforms come spring. Greg Maddux, Kirby Puckett, Doug Drabek, Barry Bonds, Ruben Sierra and David Cone will be asking a pretty penny for their services. Hopefully, the Royals will re-sign their pitching ace Kevin Appier.

Showing up all of baseball's alleged elite is old guys like Robin Yount, Dave Winfield and Brett.

Winfield showed those young "wippersnappers" a thing or two by being the oldest player to have 100 RBIs in a season. Yount collected his 3,000th hit and Brett hit .285. How much does Bonds want?

Imagine what is going to happen when George Steinbrenner comes back to run the Yankees in 1993. He is the type of guy that would blow the class curve on an economics exam.

I guess the baseball season never really ends.

goal attempt went wide right.

Five minutes later, Mav punter Brian Ruch pinned Mankato State on its 5-yard line.

On MSU's first play, Dunn broke off left tackle and outraced UNO's defense 95 yards for a touchdown. Navitsky's extra point made the score 21-7 with 3:15 left in the quarter.

On UNO's first play of the next possession, Mankato State's Mike Bezdicek picked

off a Brown pass and returned it 33 yards for the touchdown. Another Navitsky point-after-gave MSU a 28-7 lead.

"Giving up 14 points in 20 seconds was a back breaker," Kurtz said. "After that 95-yard run, we didn't lay down, but it was really hard to stay focused."

"We're giving up too many big plays," Mueller said. "We can't be good defensively if

we give up the big play. It seems like we keep turning the ball over like crazy, and we're not getting those take-aways."

Mankato State scored twice more in the fourth quarter on a 32-yard field goal by Navitsky and an 11-yard touchdown run by Mark Erickson, setting the final margin at 37-7.

"I thought our intensity was good," Mueller said.

"We're at a point where we're replaying pretty good, but that's not good enough to win. We've got five games left. If we can get things clicking, we can beat teams on our schedule. I think we're capable of playing teams that are ranked," he said.

The Mavs will get that opportunity Saturday when they take on 4-2 Northern Colorado, who had been ranked in the Top 20 before losing back-to-back games to Augustana and North Dakota State.

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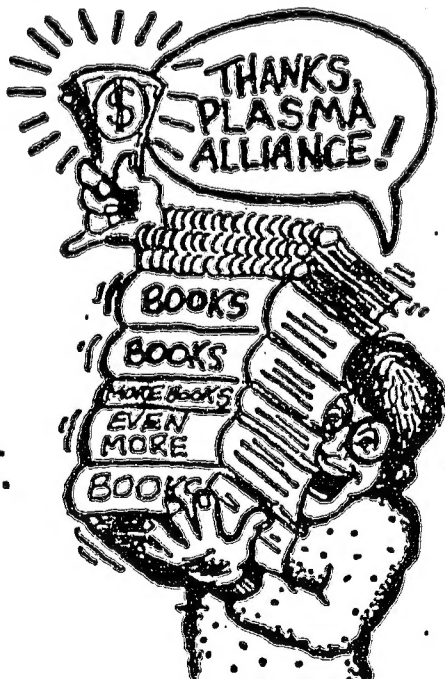
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# 'Our Town' baptizes Fine Arts Building's stage

Theater preview by Elizabeth Tape

When Thornton Wilder's classic play "Our Town" premieres Friday, the UNO theater department will be initiating the so-called "black box" of the new Fine Arts Building.

Working in the new theater which features no permanent stage has provided a source of excitement to many of the cast members.

Theater major John Hatcher said, "I love the space. It can be arranged to anything. Right now we're doing the play sort of in the round, and this is something new for probably most of us and it's really exciting."

The play itself is also exciting, as well as demanding, according to some of the participants.

Hatcher, assigned to one of the play's leading roles, the stage manager, said, "I was really happy about receiving this part. It was a stretch for me because I haven't done this type of character before, and it was also pretty exciting because Doug (director Doug Paterson) wanted to make the stage manager different than the way it's usually staged, as an omnipotent character.

"But we wanted to make him part of the play, so we went

through the script and analyzed it and found many connections to one character, Sam Craig. Craig is a character who's been gone from the town for about 12 years and feels very distanced from it, and he returns to tell this story. This staging really gives me the chance to get involved with the character," Hatcher said.

Memorizing lines is not extremely challenging, Hatcher said.

"Learning the lines is the easiest part of acting for me. If you read the script over and over again and know what's happening, it's easy to tackle the lines. I just take them one at a time, line by line. I memorize a line, go on to the next line, memorize it, say them both together, and keep on going down the line. I've read this play probably 30 times now," Hatcher said.

Doug Dickey, who plays Doug Gibbs, said he uses a different approach. "Reading the play over and over bores me, so I memorize the cue lines and my lines, repeating them over and over. Dialogue is obviously much easier than speeches," he said.

Charleen Willoughby, who plays Julia Gibbs, said, "I memorize thought patterns first and then I paraphrase, so if I can't remember the exact words at the crucial moment, I'll know what it's about. Then I go back and I fill in the correct line. I'm a real

stickler for getting things word-perfect."

The rehearsal process, though extremely time-consuming, has also provided some pleasure for cast members, said Paul Winner, who plays George Gibbs.

"I prefer rehearsal because that's where jokes come out. In the midst of the craziness and being intense about it, if someone flubs a line, people break out laughing," Winner said.


Hatcher said he prefers performance nights.

"They're far better. They give you that 'theater high.' New jokes come out because you never know what the audience will laugh at, and they're gonna laugh. There's a lot of humor in this play, and it's going to surprise a lot of people," he said.

Among the cast of 24, Willoughby said camaraderie has developed among the groups of families depicted in the play.

"A definite connection is happening among the actors, which helps when it's on stage," she said.

"Our Town" opens Friday at 8 p.m. in the theater on the main floor of the new Fine Arts Building. The play continues through Oct. 25 with performances Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. For more information, call the UNO Theater Box Office, 554-2335.



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